

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-7 (cancelled)

8. (withdrawn) A method of making a base pad for cushioning and supporting a product comprising the steps of:

forming a tube into a desired cross-sectional shape;

cutting V-shaped sections out of the tube; and

folding the tube at the V-shaped sections and bringing the opposite ends together to form a base pad.

9. (withdrawn) The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of attaching the opposite ends after they are brought together.

10. (withdrawn) The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of forming a pocket in one or more corners of the frame for receiving vertical stacking and cushioning posts.

11. (withdrawn) The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of forming holes in the frame to allow feet of the product to protrude into the frame to position the product on the base pad.

Claims 12-13 (cancelled)

14. (new) A base pad for supporting a product, the base pad comprising a linear, elongated hollow tubular member having a plurality of segments joined at their ends along fold lines, the tubular member being folded along the fold lines to form a polygonal frame having corners such that each segment becomes a side of the polygonal frame, the segments comprising:

- a first horizontal section forming the bottom of the base pad;

- an outer vertical section extending upward at a right angle from the first horizontal section, the juncture of the first horizontal section and the outer vertical section defining an outer apex;

- a second vertical section extending upward from the first horizontal section distant the outer apex;

- a product supporting surface extending horizontally from the second vertical section toward the outer vertical section;

- a first vertical section extending upward from the product supporting surface; and

- a top section extending from the first vertical section to the outer vertical section;

- wherein the fold lines are formed in the outer vertical section, and wherein portions of the first vertical section and the top section at either end of each segment adjacent the corners are cut out to define pockets to accommodate vertical stacking and cushioning posts.

15. (new) The base pad of claim 14 further comprising holes disposed in the product supporting surface and configured for receiving product feet.

16. (new) The base pad of claim 14 wherein the first horizontal section has an integrally formed bead extending upward toward the product support surface.

17. (new) The base pad of claim 16 wherein the bead has opposing sides and an apex that abuts the product support surface.

18. (new) The base pad of claim 14 wherein the linear, elongated hollow tubular member is formed from wound paperboard.

19. (new) The base pad of claim 14 wherein the linear, elongated hollow tubular member is formed from extruded plastic.

20. (new) The base pad of claim 14 further comprising a second horizontal section extending horizontally from a distal end of the first horizontal section distant from the outer apex to the second vertical section.

21. (new) The base pad of claim 14 wherein the polygonal frame has four sides.

22. (new) The base pad of claim 14 wherein the linear, elongated hollow tubular member has opposing ends which, when the tubular member is folded into a polygonal frame, are joined together.